

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116464

FOLLOWING REPEAT KARACHI 2265 ACTION SECSTATE ISLAMABAD BUCHAREST
DATED MAY 08:

QTE:C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 2265

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: DEFECTION AND REQUEST FOR ASYLUM OF ROMANIAN CITIZEN

1. AT 0950 HOURS, KARACHI AIRPORT IMMIGRATION
TELEPHONED AMCONGEN CONSULAR SECTION TO INFORM US
THAT A ROMANIAN CITIZEN WAS AT THE AIRPORT, SAYING HE
WANTED TO DEFECT TO THE UNITED STATES AND ASKING TO
SPEAK TO AN AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER. VICE-CONSUL
JOHN PURINTON, ACCOMPANIED BY CONSULAR LOCAL MICKEY
EDWARDS, WENT TO THE AIRPORT AND CONTACTED MAHMUD
JAFFRI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL INVESTIGATIONS
AGENCY (FIA).

2. MR. JAFFRI ALLOWED PURINTON AND EDWARDS INTO THE
CUBICLE ALREADY OCCUPIED BY THREE FIA OFFICERS AND THE
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ROMANIAN, DR. EMILIO MITROI. MITROI, WHO SPEAKS LIMITED
ENGLISH AND NO GERMAN, INFORMED PURINTON THAT HE WANTS
TO DEFECT AND SETTLE IN THE UNITED STATES. PURINTON
TOOK A FEW MINUTES TO TRY TO CALM MITROI AND ASKED
THE LATTER IF HE WAS REQUESTING ASYLUM. MITROI
ANSWERED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, ADDING THAT HIS MOTHER'S
SISTER LIVES IN TRENTON, NEW JERSEY AND HE WANTS TO

LIVE WITH HER.

3. TRYING TO GET SOME BIOGRAPHIC DATA, EVEN THOUGH THE FIA OFFICERS ADVISED PURINTON THAT HE COULD NOT TAKE NOTES, PURINTON DETERMINED THAT MITROI WAS BORN 1937 IN BUCHAREST. HE IS MARRIED BUT HAS NO CHILDREN. HE HAS BEEN A SURGEON FOR TEN YEARS, BUT HAS BEEN A DOCTOR "MANY YEARS". HE CLAIMED TO WORK IN A HOSPITAL IN BUCHAREST BUT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE QUERIES FOR THE NAME OF THE HOSPITAL. HE HAS LIVED ALL HIS LIFE IN ROMANIA.

4. EXPLAINING HOW HE CAME TO REQUEST ASYLUM, MITROI EXPLAINED IN VERY BROKEN ENGLISH THAT HE HAD JOINED A TOUR TO CHINA. UPON REACHING KARACHI, HE APPROACHED AIRPORT OFFICIALS AND REQUESTED TO SPEAK TO AN AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICIAL. HE REFUSED TO CONTINUE ON WITH THE TOUR GROUP (WHICH HAD ALREADY DEPARTED BY THE TIME PURINTON HAD REACHED THE AIRPORT).

5. MINUTES AFTER PURINTON ARRIVED, TWO INDIVIDUALS (SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS THE AIRPORT MANAGER FOR ROMANIAN AIRLINES AND THE ROMANIAN VICE CONSUL). ARRIVED AND SPOKE TO MR. JAFFRI IN AN ADJOINING OFFICE. WITHIN A COUPLE OF MINUTES, THE ROMANIAN AIRLINE OFFICIAL ENTERED THE CUBICLE WHERE
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MITROI, PURINTON AND THE POLICE WERE SITTING. HE DEMANDED TO KNOW WHO PURINTON WAS AND WHAT HE WAS DOING THERE. AT THIS POINT MITROI WAS VISIBLY FRIGHTENED, SO PURINTON ASKED THE SAME QUESTIONS OF THE ROMANIAN AIRLINE OFFICIAL. THIS CALMED THE ROMANIAN AIRLINE OFFICIAL WHO PROMPTLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF BY POSITION AND RELATED THE INCIDENT OF MITROI'S REFUSAL TO PROCEED ONWARD WITH THE TOUR GROUP AND THE RESULTANT DELAY IN THE PLANE'S DEPARTURE (WHICH CAUSED MANY PASSENGERS TO MISS A TOKYO CONNECTION IN PEKING). THE AIRLINE OFFICIAL CONTINUED THAT HE HAD INFORMED THE ROMANIAN CONSULATE IN KARACHI AND EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD. HE FINISHED WITH THE COMMENT THAT MITROI REFUSES TO SPEAK TO ANYONE (MEANING ROMANIANS) AND THEY CANNOT DETERMINE WHAT HE WANTS. PURINTON CLOSED THE MATTER BY SAYING THAT HE WAS TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY HE WAS CALLED THERE AND THAT THERE WAS LITTLE POINT TO DISCUSSING THE MATTER UNTIL THEY ASCERTAINED THE FACTS.

6. SOON AFTER THAT MR. JAFFRI ASKED PURINTON AND EDWARDS TO LEAVE BECAUSE ROMANIANS WANTED TO SPEAK TO MITROI. AFTER AN HOUR AT THE AIRPORT RESTAURANT

(AND THE DEPARTURE OF THE ROMANIANS) THEY WENT BACK TO MR. JAFFRI'S OFFICE. MR. JAFFRI REQUESTED THAT THEY LEAVE, NOTING THAT THE ROMANINAS' "PEOPLE ARE WATCHING THIS OFFICE NOW". MR. JAFFRI SAID THAT MITROI WOULD BE PUT UP IN A HOTEL AND THAT PURINTON AND EDWARDS WOULD BE ABLE TO TALK TO HIM THERE. PURINTON ASKED THETHER MITROI WOULD BE UNDER GUARD SINCE THERE MIGHT BE THE DANGER OF KIDNAPPING WHICH IS NOT UNKNOWN IN SUCH CASES. MR. JAFFRI REPLIED THAT MITROI WOULD BE GUARDED IF HIS SUPERVISORS APPROVED IT. PURINTON ALSO ASKED ABOUT MITROI'S ALLEGED RELATIVE IN THE UNITED STATES. MR. JAFFRI SAID HE WOULD ASCERTAIN THE FACTS AND PASS THEM ON TO PURINTON.
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7. OBSERVATONS: WHEN DEPARTING PURINTON NOTED TWO "SLAVIC-APPEARING", EUROPEAN INDIVIDUALS LOITERING IN THE ARRIVAL AREA. THESE MAY HAVE BEEN THE PERSONS TO WHICH MR. JAFFRI WAS REFERRING. ALSO, EDWARDS HAD OVERHEARD THE ROMANIAN AIRLINES OFFICIAL TEL MR. JAFFRI THAT HE HAD A FLIGHT TRANSITTING KARACHI ON MAY 9TH AND THAT THEY (THE ROMANIANS) COULD FORCIBLY PUT MITROI ON THE PLANE.

8. KARACHI DEFECTOR COMMITTEE HAS REVIEWED CASE AND DETERMINED THAT MITROI DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR DEFECTOR STATUS AND SHOULD BE HANDLED AS A REFUGEE SEEKING ASYLUM. MR. EDWARDS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM MR. JAFFRI THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION UNLESS OR UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT MITROI COMES TO THE CONGEN AND REQUESTS THE ASSISTANCE OF A U.S. OFFICIAL. HE WILL INFORM MR. JAFFRI OF THIS, AND WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT MR. JAFFRI WILL RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO MITROI AS WELL AS INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO LOCATE THE CONGEN. WE WILL TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION UNTIL SUCH TIME MITROI APPEARS AT OUR DOOR. REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT GIVE PERMISSION TO HANDLE MITROI AS REFUGEE IF HE APPEARS, AND ADVISE WHAT TYPE OF TRAVEL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE ISSUED. HE HOLDS VALID ROMANIAN PASSPORT, AND WE ASSUME HE WAS ON INITIAL LEG OF HIS TOUR.

9. THE REMAINDER OF HIS TOUR TICKET IS BEING HELD BY THE ROMANIAN OFFICIAL.
ROSSELOT UNQTE VANCE

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